

### Abstract of the Disclosure

Apparatus and a method involving airborne ground-fire data-gathering for overlay mapping and fire-control purposes. From a methodologic point of view, the method includes, from an airborne platform, (a) gathering, for visual presentation and viewing purposes, related optical and thermal fire-perimeter data, (b) gathering critical-alignment evaluation data, such as air temperature, relative humidity, wind direction and speed, which is associated with and relevant to such optical and thermal data, and transmitting all of such data, effectively in a geophysically-linked manner, to a remote site for map-display viewing and evaluation. The method further includes applying to such gathered data selected critical-alignment, severity-scale parameters which are employable generally to rank, from lower to higher, fire severity conditions in terms of prioritizing the deployment of fire-fighting resources, and from, and on the basis of, such applying, effectively map-highlighting, also for viewing and evaluation, selected parts of the gathered data which indicate certain higher-severity fire conditions.

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